



WASP FACTS

- They were the first women to serve as pilots and fly military aircraft for the United States Army Air Force during World War II.
- The WASP served in the Army Air Force from September 1942 through December 20, 1944. After they were disbanded their records were sealed and marked “classified” or “secret” and stored in archives for more than thirty years.
- 25,000 women applied for the Women’s Flying Training Detachment.
- 1,830 women were accepted and 1,074 graduated from the program. They paid their own way to arrive for training and once disbanded they had to pay for their own way home.
- The WASP were under the command of Jacqueline Cochran, renowned aviatrix and Henry “Hap” Arnold, commander of the Army Air Force.
- The WAFS and the WFTD merged on August 5, 1943 and were renamed the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP.
- WASP were governed by the Civil Service Commission although under military discipline orders.
- WASP received seven months of training, including Primary, Basic and Advanced Training, the same as male cadets.

- The WASP flew 60,000,000 miles of operation flights.
- Their types of flying duties included: ferrying, engineering test, demonstration, check pilot, safety pilot, administrative, flight instructor (Basic and instrument), towing targets for anti-aircraft, towing targets for aerial gunnery, tracking and searchlight missions, simulated strafing, chemical missions, and radio controlled flights.
- WASP earned \$150.00 per month while in training and \$250.00 per month after graduation. They were required to pay for their own food, uniforms, and lodging.
- Thirty-eight WASP died while flying for the Army Air Corps. They received no recognition, no honors, no benefits, no gold stars, and no American flag was allowed to be draped over their coffins.
- In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a house bill giving the WASP military recognition. The WASP received veteran's status in 1979 under Public Law 95-202.
- In 1984, each WASP was awarded the Victory Medal. Those who served for more than one year were also awarded the American Theater Medal.
- In 2002, Irene Englund was the first WASP to receive Standard Military Honors and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
- In July, 2009, Congress awarded WASP the Congressional Gold Medal.
- On March 9, 2010, surviving WASP traveled to Washington D.C. to receive their commendation at our nation's Capitol.